

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker on rollcall No. 598 I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MITCHELL APPLEMAN

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mitchell Appleman, a south Florida veteran of World War II and President-Emeritus of the Hallandale Jewish Center. Mr. Appleman was a well-known member of our community, involved with numerous causes and organizations. He was born in Brooklyn, New York and attended Princeton University before enlisting and fighting in General Patton's army in Europe during World War II. Upon his discharge from the U.S. Army, Mr. Appleman made a living in architectural woodworking, lending his skills to schools, hospitals, courtrooms, and religious institutions. After retiring to south Florida in 1976, he began his second career of service in his new community. Mr. Appleman became active at the Hallandale Jewish Center, serving as its longest acting president for many years and most recently as Chairman of the Board and its President-Emeritus. He was also Treasurer of the South Florida Chapter of Friends for Life. Through his work at the Hallandale Jewish Center, Mr. Appleman went on to support Jewish day schools in the south Florida community, American Friends of Bar-Ilan University, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Jewish Federation. In addition to his wife of 12 years, Riki, Mr. Appleman is survived by his two children, Nanci Vassil and Mark Appleman, and their spouses Nick and Billie; his grandchildren, Aslan, Michael, Layla and Jason; his great-grandson, Brighton; and a very close cousin, Howard Appleman. Mitchell Appleman was a kind, wonderful man whose presence will be greatly missed.

HONORING MICHAEL KREKELER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Krekeler of Blue Springs, Missouri. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Krekeler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FLOODING IN ILLINOIS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of all those in my district who have responded to the destruction that Hurricane Ike left in its path. After ravaging Texas and Louisiana, Hurricane Ike's rains made their way through the Midwest, devastating the area with record-level rainfall and causing massive flooding in northeastern Illinois, including parts of my district. Throughout the Chicagoland area, the amounts of rain broke records—almost 7 inches of rain fell in my district on just 1 day, the most in history. More than 90 billion gallons of rain were dumped on the area.

Governor Blagojevich declared seven counties in Illinois disaster areas. This will set in motion a process that will allow the Federal Government to make a major disaster declaration so that Illinois can be eligible for Federal assistance to help individuals, families, and businesses and help local governments; and hazard mitigation assistance so affected areas can implement projects to reduce future flood damage. In the meantime, I have encouraged my constituents to avoid flooded areas, to report instances of price gouging, and to be prepared with a solid inventory of the items they have lost when they contact their insurance companies to report damage.

Every single community in my district was affected, particularly the towns of Des Plaines and Park Ridge. I would like to thank and commend the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local first-responders, the American Red Cross, and local elected officials like my friend Des Plaines Mayor Arredia—who has been a leader in the effort to prevent flooding in the region—for quickly mobilizing the response and providing relief for the flood victims. I also want to recognize the neighbors who helped their neighbors, and all of the people who came together in the face of hardship. Their response to Hurricane Ike was a great example of the heart of the people of my district.

Yesterday, I joined Governor Blagojevich and other State, county, and local elected officials at the Prairie Lake Community Center in Des Plaines, which is serving as a relief and relocation shelter, to visit with people displaced from their homes with nowhere to go and thank the Red Cross volunteers who are doing such great work. I promised those people taking shelter that I won't stop working with the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the Des Plaines River Project. Those parts of the project that have already been completed made a difference and saved homes from being flooded. I will also keep working to ensure that local municipal projects that address flood prevention get the funds they need.

Congress needs to appropriate funds to respond to the devastation that Hurricane Ike and Hurricane Gustav left in their wake. I urge

all of my colleagues to join me in making sure that we allocate sufficient resources to help FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and States and communities across the country rebuild in a coming spending package.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, on September 16, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcall votes 592 and 594.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 592 and 594.

TRIBUTE TO STANTON THOMPSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career will soon come to an end. RADM Stanton Thompson of Higginsville, Missouri, will retire from his position as the county executive director for the Farm Service Agency on November 14, 2008.

Rear Admiral Thompson grew up in Saline County, where he graduated from Slater High School. Following that, Mr. Thompson received two degrees from the University of Missouri—Columbia.

In 1977, Rear Admiral Thompson began his career with the Farm Service Agency as the Caldwell County executive director. With the support of his family and friends, he was able to carry on a successful career spanning 30 years as the county executive director of both Lafayette and Caldwell counties. In 2002, Rear Admiral Thompson's office was nationally recognized when it received the FSA Administrator's Award for efforts to educate women landowners. Thompson has directed a comprehensive overhaul of the state's management training program, utilizing his experience of training over 100 county operations trainees. As director of the Farm Service Agency, Rear Admiral Thompson helped issue millions of dollars in Federal agricultural program benefits to over 3,000 customers.

In addition to his accomplished business career, Rear Admiral Thompson is a retired two-star Admiral in the U.S. Navy Reserve, providing our Nation with over 35 years of service. He is a veteran of the Vietnam war, First Gulf war, and the global war on terrorism.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to RADM (Ret.) Stanton Thompson for his outstanding career and dedication to his country and in wishing him all the best as he enters the next stage of his life with his wife, Sandy, and with his loving children and grandchildren.